

Diamond Hill R.I.

Jan 5 1874

Mr. Wm Lloyd Garrison

My dear Sir: Perhaps you will almost wonder that I seek counsel of you upon the subject I am about to present. I am a clergyman and a firm believer in the Christian Religion, but am tired and disgusted with Sectarianism. I hate its narrowness and its placing undue stress upon non-essentials, considering the partition walls between disciples of Christ as plainly contrary to both Scripture and Reason and the consequent party spirit as painfully unchristian.

You are well aware that this is nothing original with me.

because Sectarianism, in
the popular platforms
and literature of the day
is becoming more and
more odious; and Christian
unity more & more in favor.
My thought for a year
or two past has been
nearly akin to a resolution
to withdraw altogether from
denominationalism and stand
and labor henceforth only
on the platform of unity;
adopting the idea of discipleship
or a Christian profession and
character (not opinions and
creedal forms) as the true
basis of church membership
and fellowship.

The question I would have
answered by your judgment
is, "Would such a step be pre-
mature?" Is the sail ready?
Can more good be done in
the cause of Christian peace

by remaining in denominational
lines or by ~~first~~ stepping outside?

I believe from your well
known character that you
deprecate the ecclesiastical
stripes of Christendom as
heartily as I possibly can;
And hence I have had the
boldness to approach you
for counsel, pro or con,
which, if you feel free
to give, I shall very
highly prize.

I remain,

Sincerely Yours

B. A. Chase

P.S. Allow me to inquire
if you know the address of
Br J. S. Hall and. Editor of
Scribner's Monthly? And shall
this communication, for the present,
be considered confidential?

